

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

DEQ's Small Business Assistance Program

Contact the DEQ's Small Business Assistance Program for environmental assistance at 1-800-259-2890 (in-state only) or 225-219-3258, Yanfu Zhao, P.E., Engineer Manager

The Small Business Administration offers loans for business owners in federally declared disaster areas – see attached story.

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, with the assistance of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, has established the Small Business Disaster Relief Fund. Beginning September 15th, applications for grants will be posted on LABI's website: www.labi.org. or call (225) 928-5388.

Small Business Administration Loans

The SBA has designated the LSU Louisiana Business and Technology Center to be the lead on SBA Loan applications and registering businesses with FEMA. LBTC has set up an office and counseling center location (8000 GSRI Avenue, Bldg. 3000) in Baton Rouge. Any New Orleans area business that was affected by the hurricane can contact LBTC for assistance. Their phone number is (225) 578-7555; website: www.bus.LSU.edu/LBTC

You can also get information at www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/index.html or call 1-800-659-2955.

Shreveport and Bossier Office and Warehouse space available

A few building managers are offering office and warehouse space rent-free for the first 30 days to businesses displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The cities are waiving permit fees and start-up deposits, as well as offering short-term leases. Ms. Arlena Acree is the contact for City of Shreveport at (318) 673-7515; website: www.shreveportchamber.org/ The contact for the city of Bossier is Mr. David Rockett with Greater Bossier Economic Development is the (318) 742-6043; website: www.bossierchamber.com/.

The Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce has a few places to get help on its website, www.brchamber.org, for the following information for small businesses affected by Hurricane Katrina:

- To find your New Orleans business and employer
- Office/Retail Space available in the greater Baton Rouge area

Chase

Chase opened a recovery center for small firms at its 5321 Corporate Square branch to help companies affected by Hurricane Katrina. The center will offer a range of services from bridge loans and SBA financing to consulting services.

The center will be open from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday-Friday, and 9 am - 1 pm Saturday. For more information, call the Small Business Recovery Hotline: 877-612-9362.

Disaster relief for Hurricane Katrina: 972-680-7387 (Dallas, Tx) and 1-800-841-5187

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) offers help

Check out SCORE's website, www.score.org . for information on disaster assistance for small businesses and counseling advice.

Bossier Chamber and Economic Development Foundations Open Business Recovery Resource Center

The Center will focus on providing assistance for business owners recovering their business, contacting employees, customers, suppliers, and obtaining important information necessary for the survival of their business in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Center will also act as a resource center for businesses transplanted to this area in the form access to computers, copiers, fax machines, reestablishing an internet presence, and use of a conference room as they work to move their business forward. The Center is located in the heart of Bossier, 1701 Old Minden Rd, Ste. 35. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Contact Mr. Rockett with the Bossier Chamber for more information at 318-746-0252.